

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 04305 01 OF 02 131847Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AECE-00

IO-13 DRC-01 OMB-01 /154 W
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P R 131705Z SEP 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1563

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 4305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR WORKING GROUP MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11

REF: A) USNATO 4163 B) STATE 179750

SUMMARY: AT ITS SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING WORKING GROUP UNDERTOOK PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF SHAPE'S ASSESSMENT OF OPTION III IN THE US APRIL 30 PAPER; AGREED TO APPROVE ITS COMBAT CAPABILITY STUDY AS IS; UNDERTOOK DISCUSSION OF SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS BASED ON NEW STAFF GROUP CORRIGENDUM CONTAINING REQUESTED CHANGES BY OTHER DELEGATIONS; REVIEWED A SHAPE AND NETHERLANDS DRAFT CONTRIBUTION ON VERIFICATION IN THE 3 WMDS, FOR INCORPORATION IN SUBGROUP PAPER; DISCUSSED BRIEFLY MODALITIES OF CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 04305 01 OF 02 131847Z

MOVING FORWARD AGREED WG DOCUMENTS; AND FINALLY, DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS PER PARA 8.

1. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF SHAPE ASSESSMENT OF OPTION III (SHAPE DOC. 1000 1/20-5-4/73, TRANSMITTED REFTEL A). CHAIRMAN (DAWSON) INVITED COMMENTS, PRECIPITATING LENGTHY ALTHOUGH UNINSTRUCTED DEBATE ON SHAPE PAPER. NETHERLANDS REP (QUINJAN) INITIATED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION BY READING FROM SPEAKING NOTE (POUCHED). THRUST OF DUTCH CONCERN IS THAT POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT, WHICH WHILE NOT NECESSARILY DEGRADING NATO NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, IMPLIES SIGNIFICANT DECREASE IN ITS CONVENTIONAL TACAIR CAPABILITY. PROBLEM ALSO EXISTS, HE ADDED, WITH RESPECT TO ENVISIONED REDUCTION OF 36 PERSHING, THIS IN TERMS OF NEED TO FIND COMPENSATION FROM OTHER NUCLEAR-CAPABLE SYSTEMS.

HE CONCLUDED BY ASKING SHAPE REP WHETHER LATTER COULD SPEAK TO ENVISIONED ALTERNATIVES FOR MAINTAINING CONVENTIONAL TACAIR AS WELL AS EFFECTIVE NUCLEAR GROUND CAPABILITY, GIVEN PROPOSED REDUCTIONS. SHAPE REP (PLUMMER) RESPONDED BY SAYING THAT A CEILING ON NUCLEAR CAPABLE AIRCRAFT SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS IMPLYING REDUCTION IN NATO NUCLEAR CAPABILITY, THAT AIRCRAFT WITHDRAWN ARE NOT LOST TO NATO'S NUCLEAR ARMORY (THEY ARE RETURNABLE AND READY FOR FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENT AT D DAY), BUT THAT PROPOSAL WOULD OF COURSE INTRODUCE PLANNING AND OPERATIONAL RESTRICTIONS ON THEATRE AND AREA COMMANDERS. RE PERSHING, TARGETTING CAN BE EFFECTED BY OTHER SYSTEMS; ACTUAL IMPACT HERE IS THEREFORE LOSS OF CAPABILITY IN ONE SYSTEM ONLY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT A REDUCTION IN DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT DOES, IN FACT, DEGRADE NATO'S CONVENTIONAL AIR CAPABILITY. UK REP (LLOYD) INTERJECTED THAT WHILE PROPOSAL WILL OBVIOUSLY PRODUCE DE FACTO POST REDUCTION CEILINGS, THIS IS CONSEQUENCE OF ANY REDUCTIONS ENVISIONED IN MBFR, NOT MERELY NUCLEAR-RELATED ONES. DUTCH REP REJOINED THAT CENTRAL CONCERN OF HIS AUTHORITIES WAS THAT IN OPTION III A CEILING IS PUT ON NUCLEAR AS WELL AS DUAL CAPABLE SYSTEMS, AND THAT REDUCING THE LATTER COULD HAVE A DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON NATO'S OVERALL CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITY. DISCUSSION THEN REVOLVED AROUND FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

A) SHAPE REP (PLUMMER) POINT THAT SOVIET SIDE IS NOT LIMITED IN TACAIR WHEREAS NATO IS;
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PAGE 03 NATO 04305 01 OF 02 131847Z

B) SACEUR REP (GRIFFIN) COUNTERPOINT THAT SCUD AND FROG LAUNCHERS, AS ORGANIC EQUIPMENT, WOULD BE REMOVED WITH THE REDUCTION OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY;

C) FRG REP'S OBSERVATION THAT LAUNCHERS DO NOT FIGURE PROMINENTLY ON SOVIET SIDE, AND THAT THEY ARE DIFFERENTLY ORGANIZED IN ANY CASE;

2. BELGIAN REP (WILLOT) THEREUPON ENGAGED IN LONG INTERVENTION IN WHICH HE IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF POINTS LACKING IN SHAPE PAPER. PRINCIPAL POINTS WERE AS FOLLOWS:

A) SHAPE PAPER COULD HAVE FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON WHAT NATO MIGHT HAVE TO GIVE UP IN NUCLEAR FIELD TO GET RID OF SOVIET TANK ARMY;

B) PAPER DOES NOT IDENTIFY WHAT TYPES OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS MIGHT BE WITHDRAWN OR THE ECHELONS FROM WHICH THEY ARE TO BE REMOVED.

C) PAPER MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED THE NON-CIRCUMVENTIONN PROBLEM. HE CITED HYPOTHETICAL CASE WHERE IF 50 DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT WERE REDUCED FROM FRG, SOVIETS MIGHT WISH TO INSURE THAT BELGIANS DID NOT CORRESPONDINGLY INCREASE THEIR INVENTORY. PROBLEM HERE IS TO DETERMINE IMPLICATIONS OF APPLYING A CEILING ON DUAL CAPABLE AIRCRAFT TO ENTIRE REDUCTION ZONE.

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PAGE 01 NATO 04305 02 OF 02 131905Z

44

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SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 4305

3. SHAPE REP AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO EVALUATE AT THIS STAGE THE EFFECTS OF ALL THE FACTORS WILLOT HAD CITED; THAT SUCH EFFECTS COULD BE MORE EASILY EXAMINED WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF SPECIFIC REDUCTION PROPOSALS, AND THAT SHAPE WOULD WANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO ANALYZE THE MILITARY IMPACT OF SUCH PROPOSALS.

4. FRG REP (JALLUS) OBSERVED THAT THERE WAS NO MENTION OF "MEDIUM COMPLEX" IN SHAPE PAPER, EXPLAINING THAT BY TERM HE MEANT SOVIET NUCLEAR WEAPONS SYSTEMS LOCATED OUTSIDE OF REDUCTION AREA BUT TARGETTED ON WESTERN EUROPE, INCLUDING M-IRBMS. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT SHAPE CONFINED ITSELF TO NGA. FRG REP REJOINED THAT READER SHOULD SIMPLY BEAR IN MIND WHOLE

SPECTRUM OF WEAPONS IN THE SOVIET NUCLEAR ARSENAL WHICH
CAN BE APPLIED TO NATO SIDE OF NGA.
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PAGE 02 NATO 04305 02 OF 02 131905Z

5. COMBAT CAPABILITY (AC/276-WP(73)27 REVISED. AFTER DISCUSSING
FURTHER POSSIBLE CHANGES WG AGREED TO APPROVE DOCUMENT AS IS
BUT INCLUDING US CHANGE REQUESTED REF (B). AT END OF DISCUSSION FRG
REP NOTED THAT HE HAD ASKED SG TO CIRCULATE AN FRG COMMENTARY
TO THE UK MEMORANDUM OF 30 JULY ON MBFR (USNATO 3588).
PAPER HAS BEEN ISSUED AS AC/276-WP(73)28(POUCHED).

6. SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS (AC/276(73)16 REVISED).
CHAIRMAN INVITED COMMENTARY ON TWO CORRIGENDA (POUCHED) INCORPORATING
FURTHER CHANGES REQUESTED BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS. IN
SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION THESE AND FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL CHANGES WERE
AGREED TO (AD REF TO CAPITALS):

A) TO BASIC DOCUMENT: I) PARA 41 LINE 3 NOW READS "...

MODIFIED IF FORCES IN HUNGARY WERE
SUBJECTED TO CONSTRAINTS."

II) ELIMINATION OF WORD "GUIDELINES"
WHEN REFERRING TO "GUIDELINE/REDUCTIONS
AREA" IN TITLES AND TEXT OF PARAS 44
AND 46.

B) TO FIRST CORRIGENDUM: I) UNDER ITEM 2(D) RE NEW FOOTNOTE

(2), REPLACE "IN M PLUS 2 DAYS" WITH
WITHIN ONE OR TWO DAYS," AND "IN
M PLUS 5 TO M PLUS 7 DAYS" TO
"FROM 3 TO 7 DAYS."

C) TO SECOND CORRIGENDUM: I) NEW PARA 46, LINE 5: SENTENCE

NOW BEGINS: "AS FAR AS THE THREAT
FROM FORCES NOW IN HUNGARY..."

II) NEW PARA 47.B. (7): REPLACE
SENTENCE WITH: "NO EXTERNAL FORCES
PERMITTED TO REMAIN FOR LONGER THAN
A SPECIFIED PERIOD".

US REP QUERIED VALIDITY OF NEW PARA 30 B WHICH NOW INCLUDES
(AT GREEK REQUEST) TERM "EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN," RECEIVED
SUPPORT FROM WG, AND GREEP REP PROMISED TO EXPLAIN HIS
AUTHORITIES' REASONS AT NEXT MEETING. MISSION FINDS CHANGES
OTHERWISE UNEXCEPTIONABLE, AND GIVEN PRIOR US AGREEMENT TO
ACCEPT DOCUMENT AS TECHNICAL STUDY ONLY, RECOMMENDS AUTHORITY
TO APPROVE.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 04305 02 OF 02 131905Z

7. UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS, ITEM WG REVIEWED STATUS OF ITS
SUBGROUP'S PAPER, TAKING ACCOUNT OF NEW CONTRIBUTIONS BUT
WITHHOLDING FINAL SUBMISSION UNTIL RECEIPT OF PROMISED US
PAPER. AFTER HEARING STATUS REPORT ON DATA, WG THEN DISCUSSED

BEST APPROACH FOR BRINGING ITS APPROVED DOCUMENTS TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE POLITICAL LEVELS. AT CHAIRMAN'S INITIATIVE, AGREEMENT REACHED THAT THIS SHOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL WG REPS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS, AND THAT WG SHOULD NOT ITSELF FORMALLY REQUEST REVIEW OF PAPERS BY HIGHER LEVEL NATO BODIES. US REP WARMLY SUPPORTED CHAIRMAN'S APPROACH. FINALLY, WG AGREED TO HOLD NEXT MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18 WITH FOLLOWING AGENDA:

- 1) RESUMPTION OF DISCUSSION ON OPTION III
- 2) SECOND REPORT ON MOVEMENT CONSTRAINTS
- 3) SHAPE ASSESSMENTS OF GELGIAN AND UK PAPERS
- 4) REVIEW OF US VERIFICATION PAPER, IF RECEIVED
- 5) REVIEW OF SHAPE PREPOSITIONED EQUIPMENT PAPER
(WP/276(73)30(POUCHED)).

8. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR ITEMS 1), 3), AND 4) IF POSSIBLE, TOGETHER WITH WASHINGTON CONCURRENCE TO MOVE ON ITEM 2). SG ADVISES US INFORMALLY THAT ITEM 3 IS LARGELY FOR THE RECORD, AND SHOULD NOT PRODUCE LENGTHLY DISCUSSION, PAPERS BEING NOW LARGELY OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS. ON ITEM 5, SG WOULD LOOK TO WG NOTING (BUT NOT FORWARDING) DOCUMENT.
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